

State of Alaska FY2007 Governor's Operating Budget

Department of Health and Social Services Rural Services and Suicide Prevention Component Budget Summary

Component: Rural Services and Suicide Prevention

Contribution to Department's Mission

The mission of this component is to encourage and support regional and community-based efforts to address the problems of suicide, self-destructive behavior and substance abuse.

Core Services

Programs funded through this component include the Community-Based Suicide Prevention Program (CBSPP) which provides small grants directly to communities; and the Rural Human Services System Project (RHSSP) which provides funds to regional agencies to hire, train and supervise village-based counselors. These counselors provide integrated substance abuse and mental health outpatient, aftercare and support services as well as prevention and education activities. The RHSSP training program is administered by the University of Alaska, College of Rural Alaska and an additional part of the mission is to encourage rural Alaskans to pursue higher degrees in human services fields.

Both the Community-Based Suicide Prevention Program and the Rural Human Services System Project focus on ensuring that needed services are both available in and culturally appropriate to the villages and towns of rural Alaska. CBSPP coordinators provide a wide range of prevention and intervention services. RHS trained village-based counselors provide a full range of para-professional services from screening to aftercare under the supervision of more advanced practitioners. They also provide prevention and education programs in their communities.

FY2007 Resources Allocated to Achieve Results

FY2007 Component Budget: \$2,401,100	Personnel:	
	Full time	0
	Part time	0
	Total	0

Key Component Challenges

The Rural Human Services System Project faces the challenge that it does not yet serve every region of the state and there are still many villages without trained counselors. The Project needs to grow to fill in these gaps. The Project also needs to continue to work with the University to explore ways of assisting Rural Human Services graduates to pursue higher education and move into positions of increasing responsibility in their agencies. Another major challenge is coordinating with the new Behavioral Health Aide program to ensure there is no duplication and to enhance the efforts of each group.

The Community-Based Suicide Prevention Project is challenged to develop new ways to enhance training for project coordinators and establish and/or broaden links among projects. In addition, DBH Prevention staff need to work with CBSPP grantees to develop better strategies, outcome measures and community planning and readiness to deal with issues related to suicide.

The Division is meeting the ongoing challenges to continue to work to insure that programs funded in this component are aligned with the statewide suicide prevention program and are effective in reducing suicide in Alaska.

Significant Changes in Results to be Delivered in FY2007

FY07 will continue the change that began in FY06, when we integrated the suicide prevention program into a broader behavioral health system of care for the state of Alaska. Through FY05, the suicide and rural human services programs

functioned somewhat separately from the other community-based behavioral health grant programs. During FY06 we incorporated the Community-based Suicide Prevention Program into a combined DBH Comprehensive Prevention and Early Intervention Services Request for Proposals, recognizing that all of the health and wellness issues we deal with are interrelated and impact each other (FASD, substance abuse prevention, suicide prevention, early mental health and youth development, resiliency and connectedness). For example, we know that alcohol use and abuse is often a factor in suicide attempts and successes. We also know that suicidal ideations are very prevalent among youth and young adults with disabilities resulting from prenatal exposure to alcohol. By focusing on a more integrated and comprehensive approach to all substance abuse and mental health concerns, we can begin working toward health and wellness promotion, as well as prevention of these issues.

The RHSS Program aims to identify individuals who already live (most often were born and raised) in communities, to provide them training and to establish these RHSS positions as local providers who work under the supervision of a professional clinician providing ongoing support, resources, referral and general early intervention services in their community of origin with the intent of developing and training local paraprofessional providers. The RHSS Program will continue to be solicited separately from the other Prevention and Early Intervention grant programs due to its unique partnership with the University of Alaska Fairbanks RHS certification program and its training component.

With the potential new dollars we are requesting for FY07, the RHSS program will be able to add ten new positions to the existing RHSS Program and, in the process, provide 10 new villages with paraprofessional behavioral health services. These new dollars will provide funding for each paraprofessional counselor to attend the UAF Rural Human Services certification program and it will pay for a portion of these paraprofessional positions to provide supervised services within their home community.

These positions are vital to our statewide coverage for early intervention services in the most rural and remote locations and these positions enhance our Treatment and Recovery grant programs in rural Alaska. In FY04, the RHSS Program had 89 RHS Counselors who served 13,004 non-emergency clients and responded to 1,926 emergency situations during the year. With the addition of these 10 new positions we anticipate serving an additional 1,680-2,000 clients per year, in villages currently underserved or unserved. In addition, ten new paraprofessionals will be training as human services generalist and will assist in stabilizing and enhancing our rural behavioral health workforce.

Major Component Accomplishments in 2005

During FY05, the Community-Based Suicide Prevention Program (CBSPP) awarded over \$700,000 in grants to 48 communities across the state. Grant awards ranged in value from \$10,000 to \$20,000, with the average award approximately \$15,000. DBH Prevention staff worked deliberately with these programs to develop ways to better identify and document the outcomes of their program activities. This has been a major focus for these programs during the past 6 months.

The program continued its work with all communities, urban and rural, to provide training, information and public education about suicide and how we can develop support systems to prevent suicidal outcomes and to promote healthier individuals, families and communities. In addition, the program worked closely with the Suicide Prevention Council as they launched their statewide suicide prevention plan, their educational media campaign and a statewide awareness event in February of 2005. The CBSPP also assisted in the development of a Suicide Prevention Gatekeeper training curriculum that has now been completed. We are just beginning the development of a plan to get all RHSS and Suicide Prevention Coordinators trained in this curriculum, to better prepare these individuals to work with all aspects of suicide prevention - crisis calls, referrals, family support, post suicide support, survivor support, etc.

In FY05 the Rural Human Services System Project awarded 12 grants that ranged in value from \$12,000 to \$464,735. Grantees included 7 regional Health Corporations and 5 sub-regional mental health and substance abuse agencies. They helped support 96 village-based counselors working in 89 different rural communities. Each program is designed slightly different, but all with a focus on developing local paraprofessional providers through training and certification through the UAF Rural Human Services Program and funding to fund or partially fund counselors in the villages. These programs assist in supplementing our larger urban and hub community treatment and recovery programs by providing qualified local providers to act as a "first responder" and "gatekeeper."

The 30 credit RHS training program is now offered at four rural campuses: Interior/Aleutian Campus at University of Alaska Fairbanks; Kuskokwim Campus in Bethel; Northwest Community Campus in Nome; and Chukchi Campus in Kotzebue. The program is also newly available at the University of Alaska Anchorage where it focuses on students

who work or plan to work providing services to individuals who have relocated to the City of Anchorage from rural communities.

Statutory and Regulatory Authority

AS 47.30.470-500 Mental Health
7 AAC 78 Grant Programs

Contact Information
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Rural Services and Suicide Prevention Component Financial Summary

All dollars shown in thousands

	FY2005 Actuals	FY2006 Management Plan	FY2007 Governor
Non-Formula Program:			
Component Expenditures:			
71000 Personal Services	0.0	0.0	0.0
72000 Travel	0.0	0.0	0.0
73000 Services	295.3	501.0	300.0
74000 Commodities	0.0	0.0	0.0
75000 Capital Outlay	0.0	0.0	0.0
77000 Grants, Benefits	2,059.2	2,400.1	2,101.1
78000 Miscellaneous	0.0	0.0	0.0
Expenditure Totals	2,354.5	2,901.1	2,401.1
Funding Sources:			
1002 Federal Receipts	0.0	500.0	0.0
1004 General Fund Receipts	262.9	285.9	285.9
1037 General Fund / Mental Health	128.4	128.4	128.4
1180 Alcohol & Other Drug Abuse Treatment & Prevention Fund	1,963.2	1,986.8	1,986.8
Funding Totals	2,354.5	2,901.1	2,401.1

Estimated Revenue Collections

Description	Master Revenue Account	FY2005 Actuals	FY2006 Management Plan	FY2007 Governor
Unrestricted Revenues				
None.		0.0	0.0	0.0
Unrestricted Total		0.0	0.0	0.0
Restricted Revenues				
Federal Receipts	51010	0.0	500.0	0.0
Restricted Total		0.0	500.0	0.0
Total Estimated Revenues		0.0	500.0	0.0

**Summary of Component Budget Changes
From FY2006 Management Plan to FY2007 Governor**

All dollars shown in thousands

	<u>General Funds</u>	<u>Federal Funds</u>	<u>Other Funds</u>	<u>Total Funds</u>
FY2006 Management Plan	414.3	500.0	1,986.8	2,901.1
Proposed budget decreases:				
-Eliminate Federal Authorization for AK Suicide Prevention Grant	0.0	-500.0	0.0	-500.0
FY2007 Governor	414.3	0.0	1,986.8	2,401.1